

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 130838Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1132

S E C R E T MANILA 0643

FOR HABIB FROM SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) MANILA 104, (B) MANILA 638, (C) MANILA 642

1. WHEN I GAVE MARCOS MILITARY BRIEFING REPORTED REF B, HE REMARKED THAT THE U.S. SIDE NOW SEEMED PREPARED FOR THE MILITARY BASE RIGHTS NEGOTIATIONS. I CONFIRMED THAT WE WERE, BUT REMINDED HIM THAT FORMULA ORIGINALLY AGREED UPON FOR BEGINNING THOSE NEGOTIATIONS WAS TO HOLD THEM AFTER COMPLETION OF THE ASEAN SUMMIT TALKS. THIS HAD BEEN LATER TRANSLATED TO MEAN "EARLY MARCH."

2. IN VIEW OF DOUBTS MARCOS HAD EXPRESSED (REF C) ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF HOLDING ASEAN SUMMIT IN FEBRUARY, I ASKED WHETHER WE SHOULD THINK IN TERMS OF REVISING THE MARCH DATE AND WAITING UNTIL THE SUMMIT TOOK PLACE. MARCOS IMMEDIATELY REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, SAYING THAT ANY POSTPONEMENT OF THE SUMMIT RESULTING FROM EVENTS IN THAILAND WOULD CAUSE ITS SLIPPAGE UNTIL APRIL AT EARLIEST. THEREFORE, MARCH DATE WAS STILL VALID.

3. I THEN ASKED WHETHER THE NEGOTIATIONS PAPER HE HAD

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PROMISED ME SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WAS READY TO BE HANDED

OVER. MARCOS SAID IT WAS STILL NOT READY, BUT WOULD BE "VERY SOON." HE QUICKLY QUALIFIED THAT TO POINT OUT THAT IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE READY FOR HIM TO GIVE ME BEFORE I LEAVE FOR HONOLULU COM MEETING THIS WEEKEND.

4. MARCOS THEN SAID ROMULO WOULD BE RETURNING TO MANILA BEFORE I LEAVE FOR HONOLULU AND HE WOULD ASK HIM TO BE IN TOUCH WITH ME TO FIX A DATE IN MARCH WHEN THE NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN.

5. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT MARCOS WANTS MBA NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN IN MARCH AS PUBLICLY ADVERTISED EVEN IF THERE IS ASEAN SLIPPAGE. IN FACT, IF ASEAN SLIPS, IT WILL PROBABLY BE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT MBA BEGIN ON SCHEDULE IN ORDER FOR HIM TO DEMONSTRATE THAT SOME TRAINS ARE RUNNING ON TIME. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT HE INTENDS TO HOLD HIS POSITION PAPER CLOSE TO THE CHEST UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. WE MAY NOT RPT NOT ACTUALLY SEE IT UNTIL WE SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE IN WASHINGTON IN MARCH.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE SOONEST THOSE DATES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE ON SECRETARY'S CALENDAR IN FIRST PART OF MARCH SO THAT I CAN BE ARMED FOR MY ENCOUNTER WITH ROMULO ON HIS RETURN TO MANILA.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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